

**SUSS-EX CLUB**  
**Notes of the 69<sup>th</sup> Steering Group meeting**  
**4.30 pm on Friday 12<sup>th</sup> January 2024, via Zoom**

**1. Welcome**

Present were Colin Finn, Jackie Fuller, Charles Goldie, Steve Pavey, Tony Moore, who chaired the meeting, and Helen Walker.

**2. Apologies for absence**

Paul Tofts.

**3. Minutes of the 68<sup>th</sup> Meeting, of 24<sup>th</sup> November 2023**

Approved.

**4. Matters arising**

**Tony** reported that the memorial meeting for Sir Gordon Conway had occurred. Although requested to do so, Imperial College failed to notify anyone from Suss-Ex, which was however represented by our Patron Alasdair Smith.

**5. Financial report**

**Jackie** reported our balance was unchanged.

**6. Past event**

The USPAS/Suss-Ex Christmas Party had gone very well, though Provost Michael Luck was prevented at the last minute from giving his short address about the University. 48 Suss-Ex members paid and 45+ came; the means by which they paid worked well. USPAS numbers were down to a similar level, as not all had been contacted. Thanks again to **Steve** and **Jackie** for ensuring the University's continuing financial support and for successfully communicating to Sussex Food our accumulated experience in how best to mount the event.

**7. Future events**

*(a) Meeting with VC*

Dates so far offered are problematic. **Tony** agreed to ask for a Friday evening date, recognising it might be some way ahead, and suggesting a talk followed by a wine and cheese/canapés reception, as a shared event, with Suss-Ex's contribution being met from our balance, so that it would be a free event. We should think later about opening the event via DARO to local alumni.

*(b) Drop-in Social*

Once the meeting with the VC is fixed, **Steve** and **Helen** will fix a date in the Spring Term for a Social at the Lord Nelson, 36 Trafalgar Street, Brighton, timed for 5 pm to 7 pm. An alternative venue, The Dépôt in Lewes, was felt to be better suited to a summer gathering using the outside tables.

*(c) Meal followed by guided walk*

**Tony** proposed, for late spring or summer, a walk around Henfield led by Prof. Fred Gray, following lunch at the Plough there. The pub is inexpensive and has a small garden. Henfield has a bus service from Brighton. This event would be simple to organise in that no money would have to be collected—participants would buy their own lunch.

**Steve** observed that a similar arrangement would work for a tour of the Lewes Railway Land nature reserve preceded by lunch at the Dépôt.

*continued ...*

**8. Staff newsletters, obituaries**

**Charles** reported that the obituaries deleted from the University's online archive had been restored. The Steering Group recorded its thanks to Charles for his efforts towards this success.

Members of the Steering Group are again receiving the two staff newsletters but other Suss-Ex members are not. **Charles** will enquire of Marion Hamilton, Head of Staff Communications, about progress in developing a sign-up mechanism.

**9. Newsletter**

Agreed to keep in mind assembling a further Newsletter in our series, but to take no action at present

**10. Membership**

*(a) Steering Group*

**Steve** will circulate attendees of our last year's Christmas Party with a personal invitation to consider joining the Steering Group. We considered three former staff who might be invited to join.

*(b) Mailing list*

Nothing to report.

*(c) Facebook*

**Jackie** reported that membership stands at 155 and the site attracts occasional postings and comments.

**11. Other business**

None.

**12. Next meeting**

Friday 15<sup>th</sup> March 2024 at 4.30 pm via Zoom, **Charles** to convene.